



# the *Provider*



## 404th Aviation Support Battalion, Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division

LTC Roy D. Templin

Greetings to all Providers, our families, and friends. I hope you all are doing well. We are all doing well and have survived the hot Iraqi summer. Temperatures in July and August were routinely above 115 degrees with peaks around 125 degrees. You would think a soft breeze would help cool things off, but it really just felt like sitting in front of a hair dryer. High temperatures have dropped into the 105-108 range and this feels a lot cooler. More importantly, the evening lows have dropped into the low 80s. This feels really cool and refreshing.

We are all welcoming the change in temperatures as this marks the end of Summer and the beginning of Fall. This is important to us all as we prepare ourselves and the unit for redeployment. Returning home to our families is on our minds and we know our families are ready and anxious for us to make that happen. As we begin our planning and preparations for our inevitable return home I ask that all of you Providers remain vigilant and focused on our mission at hand. As the Division continues to press the fight home with our enemies we must continue to provide critical maintenance and logistical support necessary to keep the Combat Aviation Brigade in the air. These helicopters provide vital life saving support to the Soldiers on the ground. We owe them our very best effort. One Team - One Fight!

Safety: (some think it is a curse word)

This is a word that means a lot to me. It means that everyone goes home without injury, it means our equipment is prepared for redeployment without damage, it means supervising, leading, and mitigating the risk at all levels; it means taking charge, it means caring enough to do something about it when you see something not quite right. It also means taking care of our families as we return to Ft Hood. Planning the trip, taking rest stops. It means watching the speed limit; it means ensuring all of our kids have the seat belts on. Because in the end it means smiles, hugs, and kisses for all.

The Providers continue to provide outstanding maintenance support to the CAB. We have now completed 135 aircraft phase and pumped over 2,000,000 gallons of fuel. Our mechanics work hard everyday keeping all of our trucks and forklifts up so we can provide the support needed to sustain this fight. Our supply soldiers keep the parts flowing so the mechanics can keep fixing; nothing would be fixed without the right parts. Our signal soldiers continue to push electrons through the wire. These electrons translate into critical communications at all levels that enables us all to do our jobs and allow us to talk with our families so many miles away. As you can see we each have an important job to do. We all contribute to the fight. You all should be very proud of your accomplishments. I am.

As you can see your Soldiers are doing well and accomplishing a lot. You should be very proud of them.

We are very proud of you for your support and love that has carried us this far. Many of you have endured a lot without your soldier and have surprised yourself at how much you can accomplish. It's not easy, but you manage to make it happen and for that we are eternally grateful. For you have given us the sound mind to focus on our mission without worry. You have given us your commitment to the Army by allowing us to serve. You too are members of our team and together we can accomplish all. As we get closer to redeployment, I ask for your patience. We are still fighting a war here, as you can see on the news and in the paper everyday. The success of our mission is critical and more important than our redeployment. Dates and times could change at a moments notice. We all must remain flexible and committed to the end.

Chaplain Preston, the Division Chaplain, explained it like this. If any of you have every run on a relay team you will understand. Each of us must run our lap with focus and conviction. The goal being to hand off the baton to the next runner with your team in a better position than when you took the baton. However; if you drop the baton in the last foot or during the hand off, you are out of the race. This part is critical our focus on safety and the mission is the baton. We must strive to make a clean hand off for the next runner to do their part.

God bless you all.  
Provider Six

Volume 2, Issue 7

31 August 2006

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## HSC "Rebel Yell"

The month of August was a hot one for the Rebels. August is home to the hottest week of the year here in Iraq, with temperatures reaching the 120s. It is also heating up as our Soldiers are continuously preparing to redeploy back to Fort Hood.

August saw four outstanding HSC Soldiers advance one step farther in their Army careers, making a total of 62 Rebels being promoted since our arrival in theatre. Congratulations to the newly promoted PFC James Hollie, PFC John Peters, SPC Linda Dixon, and SPC Kelly Schlemmer. HSC is very proud of all its' Soldiers who have been promoted while deployed; we expect great performances from these Soldiers and they have not let us down. Congratulations to all of these Soldiers and their families.

Making another career move within the Rebels was SGT Judson Mount who reenlisted for six years. SGT Mount is in charge of the HSC's welding shop and is a great asset to everyone he works for, and an inspiration to his Soldiers. SGT Mount's reenlistment ceremony was performed on one of the Combat Aviation Brigade's Chinook helicopters flying over Camp Taji. The Rebels welcome the continued dedication of SGT Mount and everyone who has re-enlisted while here in theatre.



Officers throughout the Company were repositioned this month to take on new job responsibilities. 1LT Lawrence Schmidle, transitioned from HSC Shop Officer to become the UAV Executive Officer,

while 2LT Natiley Franklin assumed responsibilities as HSC Executive Officer.

Learning these new positions has the potential to hold many challenges for these officers, but they are prepared and willing to begin a new journey in their military career.

All of the Rebels are staying busy with more and more tasks that are being completed to prepare for our upcoming redeployment. Our welding shop is repairing containers. Mechanics are preparing vehicles to return to Fort Hood, and also repairing vehicles to ensure the 615<sup>th</sup> ASB has the best equipment it can when they assume our mission. Soldiers are being sent to various classes to help us be successful in our upcoming move home.

The HSC Rebels continue to work hard supporting the Combat Aviation Brigade here on Camp Taji, Iraq. Everyone is doing a great job and we are all looking forward to coming home when we successfully complete our mission.

## A Company "Sentry Sentinel"

### Time to Start Packing!

It is hot! Ranging between 115 and 120 degrees everyday Soldiers are busy finding ways to stay cool. But not too many people are noticing the heat, because the topic of discussion is how we are going to pack up and prepare our counterparts for the year long mission they will assume in October. The planning is in the baby phase, but it is nice to begin talking about it. However, that does not mean mission has been forgotten, after all it is our mission until November. POL has surpassed its own goals with pumping more than 2,150,000 gallons of fuel to vehicles and helicopters. Missions have been picking up due to the Coalition taking the fight to our enemies in a large way. The SSA has been pumping out parts opposed to fuel. The SSA has received over 60,000 requests for parts, pulled more than 57,000 parts off the shelf, and issued more than 50,000 to the customer. They have made an impact on helicopter maintenance and mission.

The Transportation Platoon has also been on 445 missions to date, and the closer we get to getting out of here their mission will greatly increase as units move in and out of our area of operations.

As you can see Alpha Company is steadily getting busy, but no one is complaining. The end is in sight and we are moving closer to that end with everyday. We are looking forward to being home with our loved ones and in America. To our families stay strong and keep looking forward to the future. **STRENGTH AND HONOR!**



### Reenlistments Include:

- ✦ SSG Kelly
- ✦ SGT Rosette
- ✦ SPC Gunter
- ✦ SPC Ivy

SPC Kim

### Promotions:

- ✦ SFC Potts
- ✦ SSG Kelly
- ✦ SGT Sherrill
- ✦ SPC Gil
- ✦ SPC Enriquez
- ✦ SPC Mathews
- ✦ SPC Padron
- ✦ SPC McDade

SPC Wilhite

### Soldier of the Month:

- SPC Bickelhaupt

# DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

MADAWGs are on fire!!! The company continues to perform at its peak. We have now completed over 130 phases and over 9200 back shop work orders. This is about three years worth of work in one year. This demonstrates the teamwork and dedication of this team to complete the mission. Everyone is doing very well and watching out for each other in this desert heat. We are starting the redeployment planning process to bring everyone back to Ft. Hood. We ask everyone to please consider playing a role in the FRG. It is an important part of the team. If you would like to assist in any way, please let me know.

**MADDAWG**

The stork made his rounds this month  
In MADDAWG Country.....

Our congratulations to the following for  
welcoming new MADDAWGS:

**The Cool Family  
The Miller Family  
The Swanson Family  
The Grant Family**



**SPC Sparks**

**SSG Montes**



**Re-enlistments: Thank you for your continued service  
to our nation. We appreciate what you do!!!**



**New MADDAWG  
NCOs**



**SFC Mendoza: Our  
latest Senior NCO**



**SPC Manibusan**



**SGT Jones**



**MADDAWG Junior Soldiers  
on the rise**

**Don't forget: The BDE Formal is  
January 24th at the Bell County Expo  
Center. Tickets are available through  
the FRG (\$25 per person). Come out  
and celebrate a job well done in Iraq.**



## C Company "COUGAR CALL"

### "FIRST VOICE"

In this month's issue of our company news letter, Charlie Company "Cougars" proudly joins the Nation in celebrating Women's Equality Day on August 26. Congress designated this date in 1971 to honor women's continuing efforts toward full equality. The 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote was certified as part of the U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920. It was the culmination of a 72-year-long civil rights movement that originated at the world's first women's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. Several generations of women's suffrage supporters wrote, lectured, marched, and lobbied to achieve what many Ameri-

cans considered a radical change to the Constitution but we recognized today as a blessing to our nation.



**"Every Soldier a leader, every section known for excellence"**

The month of August, 2006 has been a fruitful one. On this month issue we want to recognize the talented group of young Soldiers of our JNN (Joint Network Node) Platoon. Under the leadership of 1LT Clough and SFC Jefferson, Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant re-

spectively, the JNN Platoon has been responsible for some of the great success stories we have experienced during deployment. Composed of the ENM (EPLRS Network Management), LOS (Line of Site) and Cable sections, the JNN platoon is primarily responsible for the oversight of tactical communications provided for the Combat Aviation Brigade by establishing, implementing, executing, maintaining and measuring effective, efficient, consistent and comprehensive reliable communication plans that supports the vision and mission of the CAB. The daily execution of the CPOF (Command Post of the Future) briefings is one of the primary responsibilities the JNN platoon has. This service is provided twice daily to

in which the Brigade Commander receive and provide feedback to subordinates as well as superior regarding to daily combat operations. The BVTC (Battle Video Tele Conference) is another service provided in which implementing state of the art equipment the possibility of just in time live feed video and voice comes together to facilitate the interaction between all the decision makers and key players engaged in our current fight against world terrorism. In many occasions the BVTC services has served also as the primary means of communications bringing family members in the rear closer to loved ones in the combat zone. The ENM is also a service that provides just in time situational awareness on all the friendly forces vehicles across the battlefield providing Commanders a realistic eyes on the ground visibility to assist them in the decision making process when required. The daily display of commitment to mission accomplishment of the JNN platoon has made possible countless missions to end in total mission success. It is without reservations we can say the JNN platoon outreach communications efforts and branding strategy, provides the necessary message synergy and interconnectivity

with other Army elements and units to support efficiently the Warfighters.

### "Cougar 7"



To the Soldiers and family members of the mighty "Cougar" pride, I thank you for the sacrifices and the service that has been demanded by our position of patriotism and our devotion to Love, Family, Country, and Duty. We have truly been faced with the ultimate test of adversity. Soldiers and family members we have all faced tremendous hardships both personal and professional so please don't be discouraged or faint in your endeavors for the strength of family is found in its unity.

If the saying is true, that the true worth of a man, family or team is defined by their ability to with stand the harshest moments in life and still soar to the heights that only angels can define within their hearts. Then to this point we have truly been strong. Charlie Company 404<sup>th</sup> ASB "Cougars" have faced many challenges and we have endured, though our mission is yet completed "Cougar 7" would like to give thanks to the nucleus of the Combat Aviation Brigade's first Signal Company, its cornerstone of signal support. To the Soldiers, "thank you for your unyielding will to accomplish every task despite the personal hardship that you have faced, thanks to the Team Chiefs, Section Sergeants and high spirited, Platoon Sergeants that exemplified Competence. Soldiers and family members we have yet to complete this mission so please remain vigilant as we do our best to return to those precious treasures of love that we left behind as we march to victory in this current state of war. proud. Thank you for keeping the house environment strong in our absence, God bless you all.

## C Company "COUGAR CALL" (CONT)



"TREASURES AWAIT US"

The ability to choose is given to all  
The ability to grow, and to rise  
Despite the cost of a drastic fall  
We strive, we fight, and as the nights close, our morn-  
ings arise

We chose this life, the path to protect  
We chose this life that many before us regret  
Our homes are pictures; the distance to them is so far  
Will we choose the right light to guide us, the brightest  
of all stars?

We chart our course for home  
We hear laughter in the distance  
We have been a drift for one year and yes, on our own  
As the days grow shorter, we become very persistent

With anticipation we count our days  
And the encouragement awaits us at the gate  
To give that final hug  
As we rush through the crowds to retrieve our lost  
mates

THEVETRAN



Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain's Assistant SPC Buffong

**Our Soldiers have a mind to work.**

"So we built the wall, and the entire wall was joined together up to half its height, for the people had a mind to work."

*Nehemiah 4:6*

I am very proud of our Provider Soldiers. We have worked hard against very difficult odds. We have borne the heat of the desert sun, the separation from family, the challenging tasks which we face from time to time. The Soldiers have given their best.

Loved ones back home have been instrumental in building the morale of our Soldiers. Without your words and letters of encouragement things would not have run as smoothly as they have. The support that we have been receiving from loved ones back home has helped us to reach thus far.

God has allowed us to go through this desert experience which has helped us to know, now more than ever before, that we can trust in Him to bring us through. Our prayers for reunion will be answered. In the meantime we must be encouraged that weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning. The night spoken of here is not a 12 hour period of darkness, but a period of difficulty. We may weep during the night but it will be overtaken by the joy that floods us in the morning.

We are united and focused because we have a mind to work and get this mission accomplished.

**Rear Detachment:**

Commander, CPT Bruce-287-0033

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**FRG Info:**

BN FRG LDR—Mrs. Leslie Templin

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# September 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Companies send in volunteer hours 8:00	4 4ID prayer service at 11 and 25 th street chapel 12:00	5	6 Reunion training IVY league meeting	7 -FRG Forum & Lanes volun- teer 12:00 -Make a differ- ence workshop 12:00	8 Battalion steering meeting	9 -C CO meeting at FT Hood Burger King 6PM -AFAP-Teen night 12:00
10 A CO meet- ing at BDE 3:00 PM	11 Spouse reunion workshop 09:00-14:15	12	13 -BDE steering meeting 12:00 -4ID spousal appreciation ceremony 12:00 -CAB BDE for-	14 Spouse reunion workshop 12:00	15 FRG VTC 12:00 HSC FRG meeting at Ms Pryor's house 6:00 PM	16
17	18	19	20	21 4ID Memo- rial cere- mony	22	23 Layette at host- pital for 4ID 12:00
24	25 BDE volun- teer lunching 12:00 -Cookbook recipes due	26 -B CO FRG meeting at Grace United church Cop- peras Cove, TX 6:30 PM	27 VTC wel- come home committee Division Con- ference Room 11:30- 13:30	28	29	30



# October 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 A CO meet- ing at BDE 3:00 PM	2 4ID prayer breakfast at 11 & 25 chapel	3	4 Ivy league	5	6 -Battalion steering meet- ing at BDE 11:00
7	8 HSC FRG meeting at Ms Pryor's house 3PM	9 Columbus day	10	11 BDE steer- ing meeting	12 Early dis- missal	13 No school
14 At Harker Heights VFW Hot summer	15	16	17	18	19 4ID Me- morial service	20 FRG VTC
21 C CO meet- ing 6PM	22	23 Layette at hospital for 4ID	24 4ID purple heart & vol- unteer awards	25	26	27
28 -Make a dif- ference day -retiree re- treat day	29	30	31 Halloween			